ABSTRACT

This invention discloses a method and composition for detecting the presence of class specific antibodies reactive with analytes such as bacteria, allergens, autoimmune antigens, viral proteins, and carbohydrates by lateral flow techniques. In one embodiment of the invention, a test sample obtained from bodily fluids reacts with a gold labeled antigen. The resulting complex travels across the membrane, and along the lateral flow strip. Red colored lines formed in specific locations along the test strip indicate the presence of class specific antibodies in the test specimen. In another embodiment of the invention, the lateral flow assay serves as an immunochromatographic screening test for the detection of allergen-specific IgE antibodies in human serum. Test sample reacts with gold labeled anti-IgE antibody. The resulting complex travels across the membrane where immobilized allergens capture the allergen specific IgE complex. Colored lines are formed int the test areas to indicate the presence of allergen-specific IgE antibodies.